

## PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

## NOTIFICATION OF ELECTION

(PCT Rule 61.2)

From the INTERNATIONAL BUREAU

To:

Commissioner  
 US Department of Commerce  
 United States Patent and Trademark  
 Office, PCT  
 2011 South Clark Place Room  
 CP2/5C24  
 Arlington, VA 22202  
 ETATS-UNIS D'AMERIQUE  
 in its capacity as elected Office

Date of mailing (day/month/year) 02 March 2001 (02.03.01)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/02384	Applicant's or agent's file reference J00041657WO
International filing date (day/month/year) 20 June 2000 (20.06.00)	Priority date (day/month/year) 21 June 1999 (21.06.99)
Applicant SHANTHARUBAN, Wijeyaratnam et al	

1. The designated Office is hereby notified of its election made:

☒ in the demand filed with the International Preliminary Examining Authority on:

08 January 2001 (08.01.01)

☐ in a notice effecting later election filed with the International Bureau on:2. The election ☒ was☐ was not

made before the expiration of 19 months from the priority date or, where Rule 32 applies, within the time limit under Rule 32.2(b).

The International Bureau of WIPO 34, chemin des Colombettes 1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35	Authorized officer Juan Cruz Telephone No.: (41-22) 338.83.38
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# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference J00041657WO		<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> See Notification of Transmittal of International Preliminary Examination Report (Form PCT/IPEA/416)	
International application No. PCT/GB00/02384	International filing date (day/month/year) 20/06/2000	Priority date (day/month/year) 21/06/1999	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F17/00			
Applicant ZYGON SYSTEMS LTD et al.			

1. This international preliminary examination report has been prepared by this International Preliminary Examining Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.



2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.

- ☐ This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, i.e. sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications made before this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions under the PCT).

These annexes consist of a total of sheets.

3. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- I ☒ Basis of the report
- II ☐ Priority
- III ☐ Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- IV ☐ Lack of unity of invention
- V ☒ Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- VI ☐ Certain documents cited
- VII ☒ Certain defects in the international application
- VIII ☒ Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand  08/01/2001	Date of completion of this report  30.10.2001
Name and mailing address of the international preliminary examining authority:   European Patent Office - P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL-2280 HV Rijswijk - Pays Bas Tel. +31 70 340 - 2040 Tx: 31 651 epo nl Fax: +31 70 340 - 3016	Authorized officer  Haffner, R  Telephone No. +31 70 340 3285  

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02384

## I. Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **elements** of the international application (*Replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report since they do not contain amendments (Rules 70.16 and 70.17)*):

**Description, pages:**

1-15 as originally filed

**Claims, No.:**

1-16 as originally filed

**Drawings, sheets:**

1/4-4/4 as originally filed

2. With regard to the **language**, all the elements marked above were available or furnished to this Authority in the language in which the international application was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

These elements were available or furnished to this Authority in the following language: , which is:

- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of the international search (under Rule 23.1(b)).
- ☐ the language of publication of the international application (under Rule 48.3(b)).
- ☐ the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of international preliminary examination (under Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3).

3. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international preliminary examination was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing:

- ☐ contained in the international application in written form.
- ☐ filed together with the international application in computer readable form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.
- ☐ furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.
- ☐ The statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.
- ☐ The statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished.

4. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

- ☐ the description, pages:
- ☐ the claims, Nos.:

# INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No. PCT/GB00/02384

☐ the drawings, sheets:

5. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed (Rule 70.2(c)):

*(Any replacement sheet containing such amendments must be referred to under item 1 and annexed to this report.)*

6. Additional observations, if necessary:

## V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

### 1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Yes:	Claims	2-14
	No:	Claims	1
Inventive step (IS)	Yes:	Claims	
	No:	Claims	1-14
Industrial applicability (IA)	Yes:	Claims	1-14
	No:	Claims	

2. Citations and explanations  
**see separate sheet**

## VII. Certain defects in the international application

The following defects in the form or contents of the international application have been noted:  
**see separate sheet**

## VIII. Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:  
**see separate sheet**

**Re Item V**

Reasoned statement under Rule 66.2(a)(ii) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Reference is made to the following documents:

D1: EP 0 360 387 A

D2: EP 0 797 160 A

2. Removing all its non-limiting features, the single independent claim 1 reads as follows:

A product catalogue production system comprising a data storage means, said data storage means having a data structure.

- 2.1 Document D1, which appears to be the closed prior art to this claim discloses these features, see page 6, lines 4-16. Although document D1 does not refer to a product catalogue production system, it discloses all limiting features of claim 1, thus the subject-matter of claim 1 is not novel (Article 33(2) PCT).
- 2.2 Even converting the non-limiting features of claim 1 into limiting, would not make it inventive (Article 33(3) PCT). Clearly, the data storage means of D1 is suitable "for storing product data in the form of product codes and associated product attribute data items", which is common knowledge to the person skilled in the art. Also in D1, a person skilled in the art "allows a plurality of product attribute data items to be associated with a product code", see page 6, lines 4-16. Furthermore, it is obvious to the person skilled in the art, "when a plurality of product attribute data items are associated with a given product code", that "said data structure structures the product data in the form of a plurality of product data records each including the given product code and an associated product attribute data item", which is also disclosed by D1 in the above passage.
- 2.3 A similar reasoning based on document D2 (page 2, lines 37-57, page 4, lines 15-24) would also show that the subject-matter of claim 1 is not novel (Article 33(2)

PCT).

3. Dependent claims 2-14 do not contain any features which, in combination with the features of any claim to which they refer, meet the requirements of the PCT in respect of inventive step, the reasons being as follows:

The subject-matter of these claims all seem to refer to normal design features well-known to the person skilled in the art. They all refer to the structuring of the data according to the needs and wishes of the designer, without the need to exercise inventive skill, where none of the features shows a surprising technical effect above document D1.

**Re Item VII**

Certain defects in the international application

1. The Independent claim is not in the two-part form in accordance with Rule 6.3(b) PCT, which in the present case would be appropriate, with those features known in combination from the prior art (document D1) being placed in a preamble (Rule 6.3(b)(i) PCT) and with the remaining features being included in a characterising part (Rule 6.3(b)(ii) PCT).
2. The features of the claims are not provided with reference signs placed in parentheses (Rule 6.2(b) PCT).
3. Contrary to the requirements of Rule 5.1(a)(ii) PCT, the relevant background art disclosed in the document D1 is not mentioned in the description, nor is this document identified therein.
4. Claims 4, 6, 9, 11, 13 do not meet the requirements of Rule 6.4(a) PCT because multiple dependent claims may not be dependent on multiple dependent claims.
5. Claims 15 and 16 do not meet the requirements of Rule 6.4(a) PCT because they refer to the description and drawings.

<PAGE>

**Re Item VIII**

Certain observations on the international application

1. Claims 1, 11 do not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that the matter for which protection is sought is not clearly defined. The claims attempt to define the subject-matter in terms of the result to be achieved which merely amounts to a statement of the underlying problem, rather than stating the technical features necessary which achieve this result.

In claim 1, this refers to the phrase where "the data storage means has a data structure which allows.....". It is not clear how the data structure allows a plurality of product attribute data items to be associated with a product code.

Claim 11 contains a similar phrase to which the same objection applies.

2. Claims 1, 11 do further not meet the requirements of Article 6 PCT in that it is not clear how the "when-phrase" limits the scope of the claim.

Claims

1. A product catalogue production system comprising data storage apparatus for storing data relating to a plurality of products, characterized in that said data is stored in a data structure comprising: a first data store where attributes of said plurality of products are each identified by an attribute code, and a second data store where each attribute of a given product of the plurality of products is recorded as a product record, each product record comprising a product identifier for said given product and one of the attribute codes from said first store, the total number of product records for a given product being equal to the number of product attributes possessed by said given product.

2. A product catalogue production system according to claim 1, wherein said product records comprise an attribute value, said attribute value being associated with the attribute code in a separate data record.

3. A product catalogue production system according to claim 1, wherein said plurality of product data records are stored in one storage table of a relational database.

4. A product catalogue production system according to claim 1, wherein said data storage apparatus further comprises a data store for storing product classification data in the form of classification data records associated with said product codes.

5. A product catalogue production system according to claim 4, wherein said product code/classification data association is a many-to-many association.



6. A product catalogue production system according to claim 4, wherein said data storage apparatus further comprises a store for product structure data, whereby a set of possible attributes is defined for a product falling within a product classification, and a data store for product structure control data, whereby a product structure is associated with a product classification.

7. A product catalogue production system according to claim 6, wherein said product structure data is in the form of a plurality of product structure data records each including a product structure code and an associated product attribute control data item.

8. A product catalogue production system according to claim 7, wherein said product data records include a field for storing an attribute control data item stored in an associated product structure record.

9. A product catalogue production system according to claim 4, wherein a classification data record comprises a pointer to a further classification data record, to define a relationship in a classification hierarchy.

10. A product catalogue production system according to claim 9, wherein said pointer is a pointer to a parent classification data record.

11. A product catalogue production system according to claim 4, wherein said classification data records store classification data in the form of classification codes and associated classification attribute data items, said data storage apparatus having a data structure allowing a plurality of classification attribute data items to be associated with a classification code, said data structure structuring the classification data, when a plurality of classification attribute data items are associated with a given classification code, in the form of a plurality of classification data records each including the given classification code and an associated classification attribute data item.

12. A product catalogue production system according to claim 11, wherein said plurality of classification data records are stored in one storage table of a relational database.

13. A product catalogue production system according to claim 11, wherein the classification attribute data item is an attribute code associated with an attribute value, and the attribute value is associated with the attribute code in a separate data record.

14. A product catalogue production system according to claim 13, wherein the attribute values associated with a classification record in the data storage apparatus may also be associated with an otherwise unrelated product record, by means of said attribute code.

## PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>J00041657W0</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b> see Notification of Transmittal of International Search Report (Form PCT/ISA/220) as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.	
International application No. <b>PCT/GB 00/ 02384</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>20/06/2000</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>21/06/1999</b>
Applicant <b>ZYGON SYSTEMS LTD et al.</b>		

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 3 sheets.



It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

## 1. Basis of the report

- a. With regard to the **language**, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.



the international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

- b. With regard to any **nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence** disclosed in the international application, the international search was carried out on the basis of the sequence listing :



contained in the international application in written form.



filed together with the international application in computer readable form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in written form.



furnished subsequently to this Authority in computer readable form.



the statement that the subsequently furnished written sequence listing does not go beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed has been furnished.



the statement that the information recorded in computer readable form is identical to the written sequence listing has been furnished

2. ☐ **Certain claims were found unsearchable** (See Box I).

3. ☐ **Unity of invention is lacking** (see Box II).

4. With regard to the **title**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

5. With regard to the **abstract**,



the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.



the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box III. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

6. The figure of the **drawings** to be published with the abstract is Figure No.



as suggested by the applicant.



because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.



because this figure better characterizes the invention.

1



None of the figures.

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02384

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category °	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	EP 0 360 387 A (IBM) 28 March 1990 (1990-03-28) page 3, line 4 - line 17 ---	1-14
X	EP 0 797 160 A (PILOT SOFTWARE INC) 24 September 1997 (1997-09-24) page 2, line 35 - line 57 page 4, line 15 - line 24 ---	1-14
X	US 5 295 256 A (BAPAT SUBODH) 15 March 1994 (1994-03-15) column 2, line 67 -column 3, line 23 ---	1-14
X	GB 2 315 576 A (ERICSSON TELEFON AB L M) 4 February 1998 (1998-02-04) page 2, line 36 -page 3, line 18 --- -/--	1



Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.



Patent family members are listed in annex.

## ° Special categories of cited documents :

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*&amp;\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 September 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/09/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Haffner, R

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02384

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
A	<p>US 5 907 846 A (ROSENTHAL KATHRYN A ET AL) 25 May 1999 (1999-05-25) abstract</p> <p>-----</p>	1-14

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02384

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
EP 0360387	A	28-03-1990	AU 617846 B2	05-12-1991
			AU 3953689 A	29-03-1990
			BR 8904808 A	01-05-1990
			CA 1325681 A1	28-12-1993
			DE 68926422 D1	13-06-1996
			DE 68926422 T2	07-11-1996
			EP 0360387 A2	28-03-1990
			JP 1922413 C	07-04-1995
			JP 2116973 A	01-05-1990
			JP 6052531 B	06-07-1994
			US 5133068 A	21-07-1992
EP 0797160	A	24-09-1997	AU 1515597 A	25-09-1997
			EP 0797160 A2	24-09-1997
US 5295256	A	15-03-1994	NONE	
GB 2315576	A	04-02-1998	NONE	
US 5907846	A	25-05-1999	NONE	

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(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property Organization  
International Bureau(43) International Publication Date  
28 December 2000 (28.12.2000)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 00/79409 A3**(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **G06F 17/30**Park Avenue, Mitcham, Surrey CR4 2DL (GB). **LAN-DALE, Peter, David, Roper** [GB/GB]; Bankhead, Dalswinton, Dumfries DG2 0XY (GB).(21) International Application Number: **PCT/GB00/02384**(74) Agents: **SPAARGAREN, Jerome et al.**; R.G.C. Jenkins & Co., 26 Caxton Street, London SW1H 0RJ (GB).(22) International Filing Date: **20 June 2000 (20.06.2000)**(25) Filing Language: **English**(81) Designated States (*national*): AE, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BY, CA, CH, CN, CU, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, NO, NZ, PL, PT, RO, RU, SD, SE, SG, SI, SK, SL, TJ, TM, TR, TT, UA, UG, US, UZ, VN, YU, ZA, ZW.(26) Publication Language: **English**(30) Priority Data:  
9914471.9 **21 June 1999 (21.06.1999)** **GB**(71) Applicant (*for all designated States except US*): **ZYGON SYSTEMS LTD.** [GB/GB]; Fourth floor, Jessica House, Red Lion Square, 191 Wandsworth High Street, London SW18 4LS (GB).(84) Designated States (*regional*): ARIPO patent (GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, CH, CY, DE, DK, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, SE), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

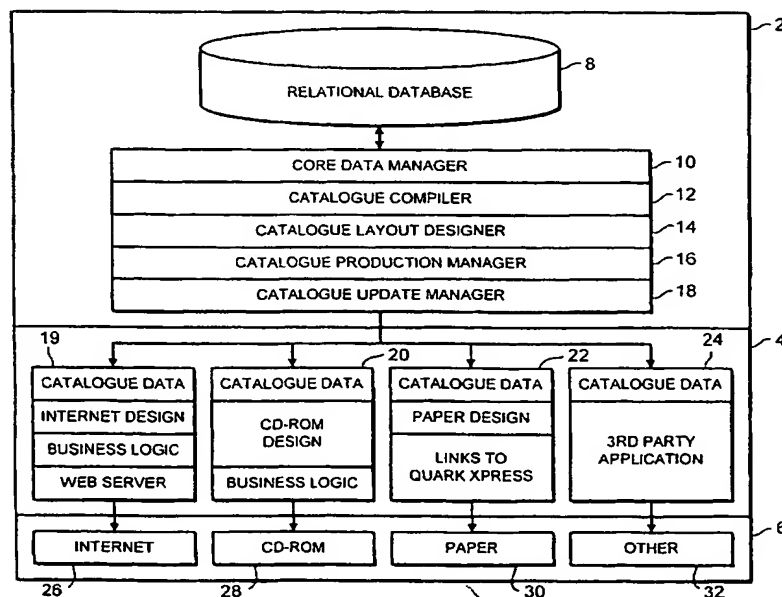
(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (*for US only*): **SHAN-THARUBAN, Wijeyaratnam** [LK/GB]; 137 Gorringe

Published:

— with international search report

[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: **PRODUCT CATALOGUE PRODUCTION SYSTEM**

RECEIVED

JUN 07 2002

Technology Center 2100

(57) Abstract: A product catalogue production system comprising a data storage means for storing product data in the form of product codes and associated product attribute data items, said data storage means having a data structure allowing a plurality of product attribute data items to be associated with a product code, said data structure structuring the product data, when a plurality of product attribute data items are associated with a given product code, in the form of a plurality of product data records each including the given product code and an associated product attribute data item.

WO 00/79409 A3



(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
2 May 2002

*For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.*



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02384

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 G06F17/60 G06F17/30

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, INSPEC, WPI Data

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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X	EP 0 360 387 A (IBM) 28 March 1990 (1990-03-28) page 3, line 4 - line 17 ---	1-14
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☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

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- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance: the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \* & \* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

19 September 2001

Date of mailing of the international search report

26/09/2001

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Authorized officer

Haffner, R

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 00/02384

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

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A	<p>US 5 907 846 A (ROSENTHAL KATHRYN A ET AL) 25 May 1999 (1999-05-25) abstract</p> <p>-----</p>	1-14

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EP 0360387	A	28-03-1990	AU 617846 B2	05-12-1991
			AU 3953689 A	29-03-1990
			BR 8904808 A	01-05-1990
			CA 1325681 A1	28-12-1993
			DE 68926422 D1	13-06-1996
			DE 68926422 T2	07-11-1996
			EP 0360387 A2	28-03-1990
			JP 1922413 C	07-04-1995
			JP 2116973 A	01-05-1990
			JP 6052531 B	06-07-1994
			US 5133068 A	21-07-1992
EP 0797160	A	24-09-1997	AU 1515597 A	25-09-1997
			EP 0797160 A2	24-09-1997
US 5295256	A	15-03-1994	NONE	
GB 2315576	A	04-02-1998	NONE	
US 5907846	A	25-05-1999	NONE	



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